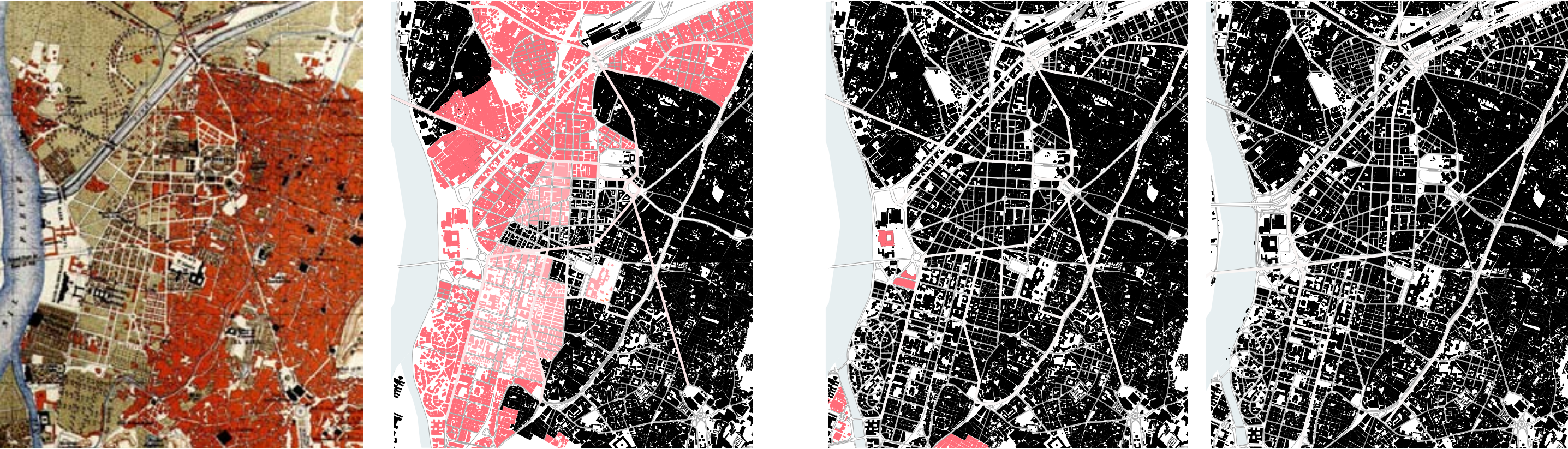









DOWNTOWN

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

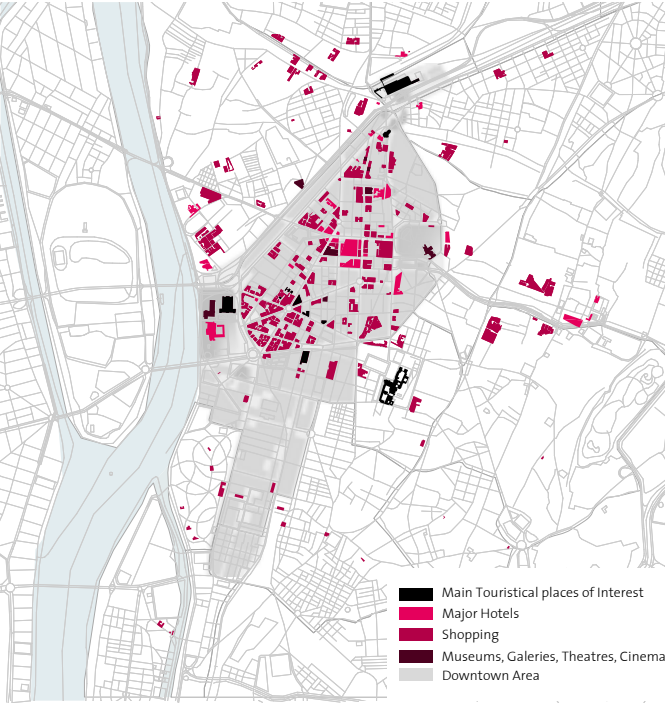


Downtown Cairo was considered the new city beginning in the 19th century, and named Ismailiah, after the europhile Khedive Ismail who founded it. This new district was largely funded by revenues from the cotton boom, and was built and planned under a French-European model. The aim was to build a city that rivalled Paris in beauty and modernity, and to impress world leaders who were about to visit Egypt for the inauguration of the Suez Canal. The grand (and once tree-lined) avenues, with European architecture, intersecting at elegant roundabouts remain as a fading reminder of Egypt’s Belle Epoque.

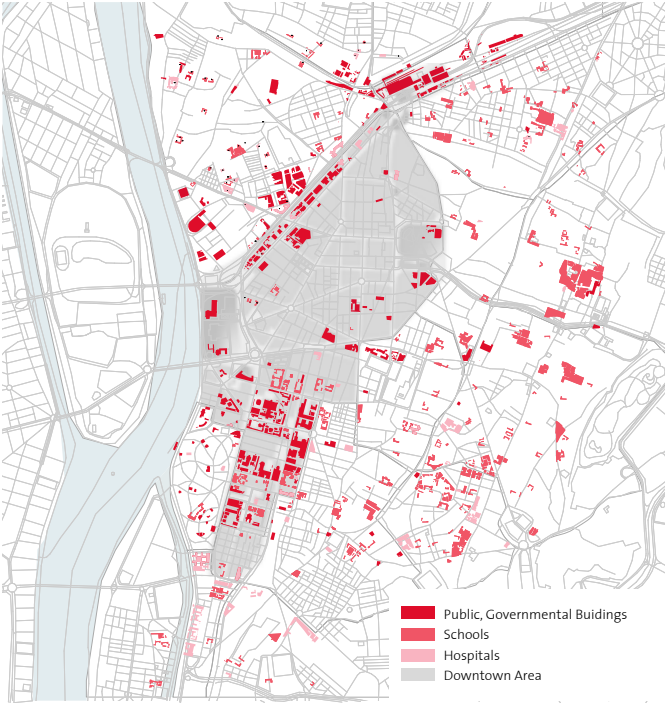
 <p>1805 - 1854</p>	 <p>1863/64 Gezira Palace (today Marriott Hotel) with the first cast-iron construction</p>	 <p>1867 - 1879</p>	<p>1867 Expo in Paris 1869 Suez canal opening with opening of the opera and supplying of gas and water. British replace Khedive Ismail with Tewfik, beginning their reign</p>	<p>1882 British colonisation 1889 End of Ottomans and beginning of British 1897 Canals</p>	 <p>1867 - 1879</p>	<p>1880s Masterplan by Haussmanns landscape architects: P. Grand (public projects) and G. Delchevalerie (parks, gardens and plantations) under Khedive Ismail</p>	<p>1897 first stock market crash in egypt -> end of building boom 1909 St. Joseph Church 1910 Coptic Museum</p>	 <p>1925 Groppi's Cairo Rotunda and Shari Mahmud bek Basyumi</p>	<p>1934 Baehler Building, Quasr al Nil 22</p>	<p>1936 Anglo-Egyptian treaty of mutual defense and alliance is signed occupation of Egypt terminated</p>	<p>1952 Egyptian Revolution</p>	 <p>1954 Mogamma building as a gift by the Soviet Union 1956 Rise of Nasser and Suez Crisis</p>	 <p>1979 Peace with Israle under Sadat 1980 Riad House Murad Greiss House</p>	<p>1987 IMF bails out Egypt beginning of Liberalization 1992 Cairo earhtquake</p>	<p>1999 al-Ashgar development</p>	<p>2009 Tycoon buys 15 buildings Downtown</p>
1850 1848 - 1863 The successors of Muhammad `Ali	1879 - 1913 Building boom around the turn of the century	1900	1906 - 1936 The access of the suburbia	1913 - 1936 La Belle Epoque	1922 - 1952 Cairo under the last monarchs	1950	1952 - 1967 First urban expansion	1974 - 1993 Densification	since 1993 Second urban expansion	2010						

CONTEMPORARY CAIRO

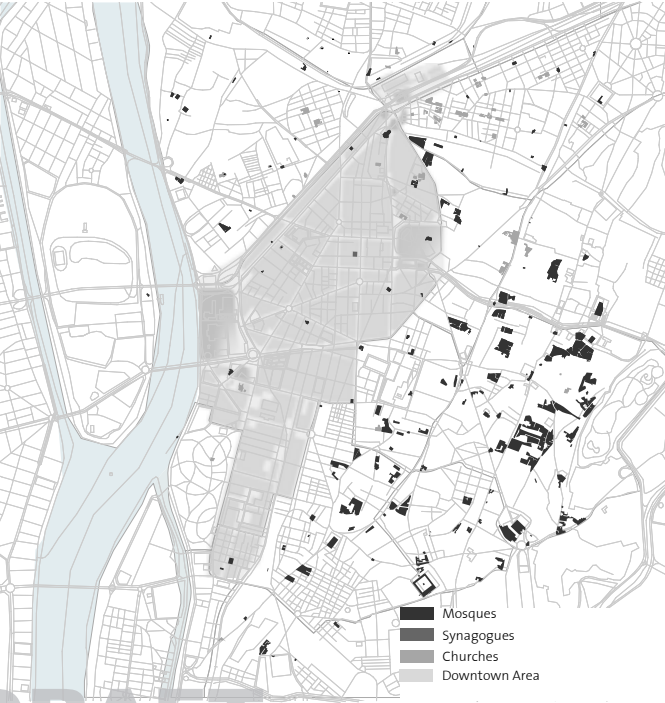
Tourism and Entertainment



Public Buildings



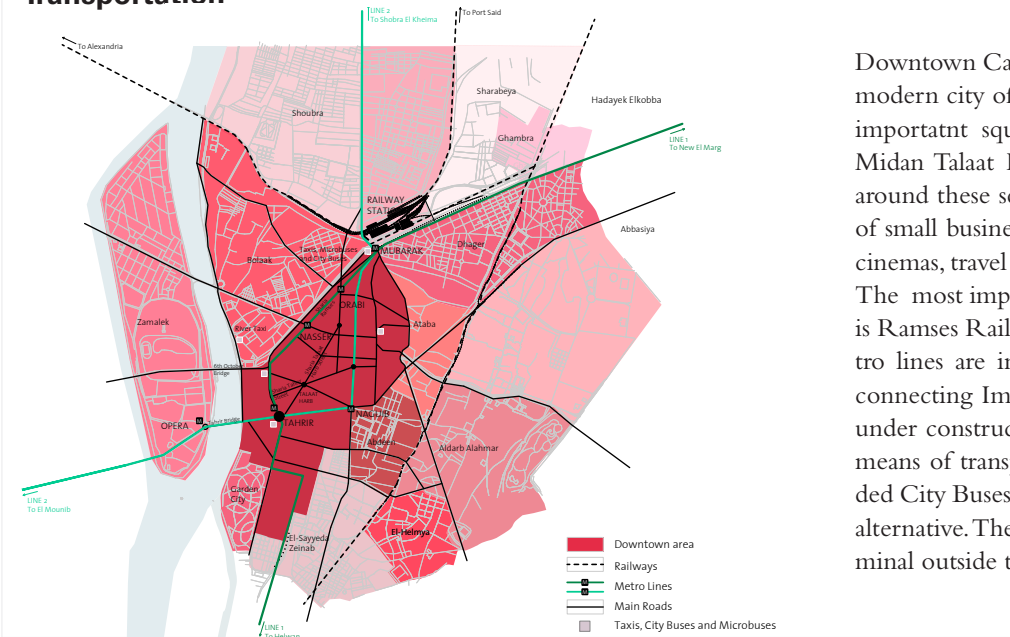
Religious Buildings



Public Spaces in Downtown area



Transportation



Downtown Cairo is the commercial heart of the modern city of Cairo, centered on the two most important squares and public transport hubs: Midan Talaat Harb and Midan Tahrir. Streets around these squares are packed with thousands of small business, shops, variety of hotels, banks, cinemas, travel agents and eating places. The most important public transportation point is Ramses Railway Station, where also two metro lines are intersecting. The third metro line connecting Imbaba and International Airport is under construction. However, the most popular means of transportation in Cairo are overcrowded City Buses and minibuses. Taxis are another alternative. There is also a river bus and taxi terminal outside the television building in Bouldak.

Important Public Spaces



① Talaat Harb square
Talaat Harb square, dedicated to famous economist and national bank founder is perhaps Cairo's most elegant square. The square was in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the rendez-vous place of choice for Cairo's elite. Square is surrounded by Parisian-style art nouveau buildings such as Yacoubian Building or Groppi, Café Riche.

② Midan Tahrir
Being the public transport hub, Midan Al-Tahrir is one of the main and largest public squares, the absolute centre of the city. Formerly known as Midan Ismaili it was renamed in 1954 by president Nasser as Midan Tahrir „Liberation Square“. It houses numerous important buildings such as Mugamma Building, Arab League Headquarters, Nile Hilton Hotel, The Egyptian Museum.

③ Ezbekiyya Gardens
The gardens were laid out in 1870 in the former lake territory by parisian landscape gardener M. Barillet. The garden impresses visitors with the various types of bushes and plants that have been collected from different shores of the planet. There is a second-hand book market as well as Puppet Theatre located in the park.

④ The Egyptian Museum
The Egyptian government established the museum in 1835 in order to protect the priceless artifacts that trace Egypt's past. The present Egyptian Museum was designed in 1896 by the French Architect Marcel Dourgnon in the neo-classic style that suits the ancient and classical monuments, but does not compete with the still standing ancient Egyptian ar-

BUILDING TYPOLOGIES



Figure Ground Plan
DRAFT
© ETH Studio Basel



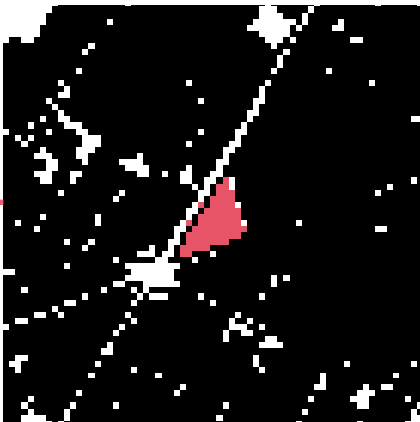
Immeubles Khediviaux

- Year: 1911
- Size: 9200 m2
- Location: Shari' 'Imad al-Din, 11 to 18
- Architect: Antonio Lasciac
- Use: Commercial and residential
- Style: NeoBaroque



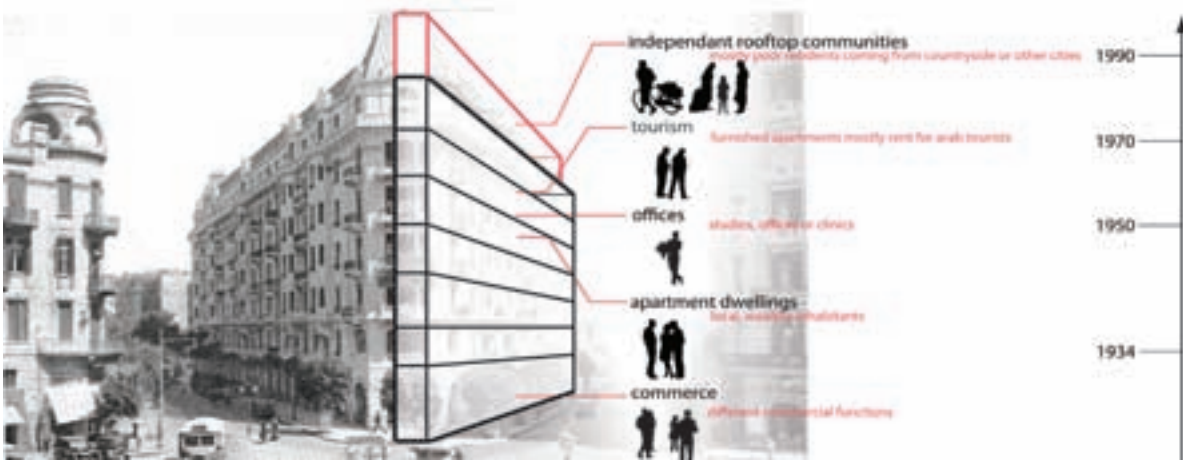
1. Street and Facade Views of Immeubles Khediviaux

The Building was built by Antonio Lasciac for prince Abbas Hilmi. This enormous building is split into four parts, where in the middle Theatre, Cafes and Bars are located. The middle part is also marked by 4 domes. The buildings are connected with galleries in the 6th floor. The building in its neobaroque form has its roots in parisian Ecole des Beaux Arts, although italian rationalismus could be also seen here.



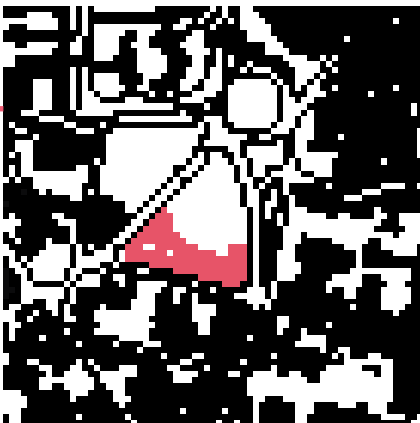
Baehler (Yacoubian) Building

- Year: 1934
- Location: Talaat Harb Square
- Use: Commercial and residential
- Style: Art Deco



2. Baehler Building

This building, opened in 1952 is the most imposing building on Midan Tahrir (Liberation) square. „Mogamma“, literally meaning ‚combined‘ houses many governmental administrative offices (passport, taxes, marriage, fire fighting) and around 18000 employees. The 20 story tall building was designed in 1951 by an Egyptian architect named ‘Kamal Ismail’. The structure and architecture of the Mogamma building was influenced by the building styles in the Soviet Union , although its appearance and colossal size was described by its architect as “a simplified form of the Islamic style”. No to mention the fact that the building was a present from the Soviet Union and represent in this way Soviet architecture.



Mogamma Building

- Year: 1952
- Location: south of Midan Tahrir square
- Architect: Kamal Ismail
- Height: 55 m
- Use: Governmental offices
- Style: Soviet Architecture



3. Tahrir Square and Mogamma Building

SOURCES

BOOKS

Al Aswany, A 2004, *The Yacoubian Building*, The American University in Cairo Press, Cairo.

Bucher, F 1997, *Cairo Seminarwoche WS 97/98 Eidgenossische [i.e. Eidgenössische] Technische Hochschule Zürich*, ETH Zürich.

Ibrahim, FN 1996, *Aegypten eine geographische Landeskunde*, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt.

Khalil, Y 1996, *Die Veränderungen der städtischen Infrastruktur in Kairo (Aegypten) im 19. Jahrhundert anhand der Aufzeichnungen von Ali Mubarak (1823-1893)*, Kassel.

INTERNET

Google Earth

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/egypt/cairo>

<http://egypttourinfo.com/>

<http://www.eternalegypt.org/>

<http://www.touregypt.net/>

IMAGE CREDITS

All graphics made by Julia Dyllong and Aiste Plentaite

P. 5, fig. 3 and areal photos
Google Maps, Panoramio

P. 5 fig.1
www.molon.de

P. 5 fig.2
<http://www.touregypt.net/>

P. 5 fig.4
<http://egypttourinfo.com/>

P. 7 fig.1
Ibrahim, FN 1996, *Aegypten eine geographische Landeskunde*, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt, pp. 177,225.

P. 7 fig.3
<http://www.touregypt.net/>